

Priority:

The applicants are taking steps to file a certified copy of the Israel application on which priority is claimed, as required by 35 USC § 119(b).

Drawings:

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR § 1.83(a). The analyzing instrument specified in claim 51, and the optical filter specified in claims 59, 61, 62, 74, 76, 88-90, 118, 125, 128 and 131 are not shown in the drawings. The applicants have amended Fig. 3 to show the analyzing instrument and the optical filter, and have amended Fig. 4 to show the optical filter. The applicants have also amended the specification at the locations where these features of the claims are referred to, by addition of the reference signs of these features. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by these amendments.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(5), because they do not include reference sign 25 mentioned in the description on page 7. The applicants have amended Fig. 4 by the addition of reference sign 25 to indicate the relevant electric circuit.

A separate letter to the draftsman in accordance with MPEP § 608.02(r) is appended hereto. Copies of the amended drawings, showing the changes in red ink are appended hereto, in accordance with MPEP § 608.02(v).

Claim rejections - 35 USC § 102:

Claim 112 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being clearly anticipated by Falcoff et al, (U.S. Patent No. 4,511,251).

The Examiner states that Falcoff et al disclose a tube assembly for connection to a fluid analyzing instrument comprising a connector (body 4 with inlet opening 11 and outlet

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opening 12), wherein at least a part of the end face is optically reflective. Body 4 can be made of stainless steel which is optically reflective.

The applicants respectfully assert that this is incorrect. Falcoff et al shows a tube assembly (body 4 with inlet opening 11 and outlet opening 12), and the body 4 can be made of stainless steel which is optically reflective. However, to the best of the applicants understanding, this tube assembly is not shown anywhere in Falcoff et al as being suitable **for connection to a fluid analyzing instrument**, the only analyzing instrument being described in Falcoff et al being the apparatus itself of which the body 4 is an integral part. Furthermore, the end face which the Examiner asserts can be optically reflective, is the end face of the body, and not the end face of a connector. In addition, in use, this end face which may be optically reflective, is covered by the paint flowing through the fluid chamber, such that the optical reflectivity property of the end face is irrelevant and unused. The claimed use of the apparatus thus teaches away from the use of an optically reflective end face.

In contrast to what is described in the Falcoff et al patent cited by the Examiner, amended claim 112 now recites: "A tube assembly for connection to a fluid analyzing instrument, comprising a connector, **said connector having an end face**, and wherein at least part of said end face is optically reflective." (Emphasis added.)

To the best of the applicants' understanding, nowhere in the Falcoff et al patent is there described or suggested a connector having an end face, and wherein at least part of said end face is optically reflective, as recited in amended claim 112.

The applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 112 is not anticipated by the Falcoff et al prior art, and is in condition for allowance. Claims 114-118 depend upon claim 112 and recite further patentable matter. Claims 114-118 are therefore also deemed to be allowable.

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Allowed Claims:

The applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 51-111, 113 and 119-137 are allowed over the prior art of record.

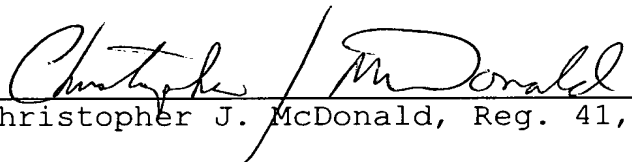
Additional Prior Art:

The applicants have carefully studied the Ricciardelli patent cited by the Examiner, and to the best of their understanding thereof, this prior art does not affect the patentability of any of the applicants' claims, either alone or in combination with any of the other prior art of record.

Conclusion:

In the light of all of the above arguments, the applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 51-137 are allowable. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by 
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September 14, 2001

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